

Amendments to the Claims:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously present), or (not entered).

Applicant reserves the right to pursue any cancelled claims at a later date.

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-8. (cancelled)

9. (currently amended) A method for verifying an availability of a server to reduce a load placed on the server, comprising:

transmitting an availability requests by a client to the server;

transmitting a response to the availability requests by the server to the client by confirmation message if the server is available; ~~and~~

transmitting a message regarding an availability of the server by the client to a plurality of predefinable other clients; and

reducing the load placed on the server to prevent by preventing a transmission of the availability requests by the plurality of predefinable other clients to the server for a predefinable period of time  $t_r$ .

wherein the predefinable period of time  $t_r$  is calculated by:

$$t_r(a, n, s, v) = \frac{60s}{a \cdot (v \cdot n + s(1 - v))}$$

wherein:

a is request rate per minute sending by the client to the server for the availability requests.

n is a number of clients within the server,

s is a number of subnetworks within the server, and

v is loss rate.

10. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the method is used for verifying the availability of the server in a packet-oriented communication network.

11. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein data is transmitted between the server and clients by a connectionless switching control.

12. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the message regarding the availability of the server is transmitted to the plurality of predefinable other clients using a multicast message.

13. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the client informs only the plurality of predefinable other clients within a same subnetwork about the availability of the server.

14. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the client executes the availability requests at a time which is predefined by a timer.

15. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the timer is reset to a predefinable value when the message regarding the availability of the server is received.

16. (currently amended) A control program loaded into a random access memory of a client and having a code section, comprising:

- a code that transmits an availability requests by the client to a server;
- a code that monitors a receipt of a confirmation message responding to the availability requests if the server is available;
- a code that transmits a message regarding an availability of the server to a plurality of predefinable other clients; and

a code that monitors a receipt of a message of the plurality of predefinable other clients regarding the availability of the server,

wherein a transmission of the availability requests by the plurality of predefinable other clients to the server is prevented for a predefinable period of time  $t_r$  when the message is received to reduce a load placed on the server,

wherein the predefinable period of time  $t_r$  is calculated by:

$$t_r(a, n, s, v) = \frac{60s}{a \cdot (v \cdot n + s(1 - v))}$$

wherein:

a is request rate per minute sending by the client to the server for the availability requests,

n is a number of clients within the server,

s is a number of subnetworks within the server, and

v is loss rate.

17. (cancelled)

18. (currently amended) A client for a communication network providing a connectionless service, comprising:

a device for transmitting an availability requests to a server;

a device for monitoring a receipt of a confirmation message responding to the availability requests if the server is available;

a device for transmitting a message regarding an availability of the server to a plurality of predefinable other clients; and

a device for monitoring a receipt of a message of the plurality of predefinable other clients regarding the availability of the server and for preventing a transmission of the availability requests by the plurality of predefinable other clients to the server for a predefinable period of time  $t_r$  when the message is received to reduce a load placed on the server,

wherein the predefinable period of time  $t_r$  is calculated by:

$$t_r(a, n, s, v) = \frac{60s}{a \cdot (v \cdot n + s(1 - v))}$$

wherein:

a is request rate per minute sending by the client to the server for the availability requests,

n is a number of clients within the server,

s is a number of subnetworks within the server, and

v is loss rate.